

## Beautification Commission (BC)

### Meeting Minutes

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 ~ 9:00 am

Town Hall Room B-3

**Present:** Suzanne Schutte, Heather Pommernelle, Phyllis Hawkins, Marcia Meinerth, Bob Baker, Sabina Harris, David May, John Schlachtenhaufen, Sandy Drimal

**Absent:** Sandy Filmer, Cindy Ryan, Pam Elliot

Action items are noted in red.

#### Financial

- Budget set by the town at \$26,000. Current remaining funds for the year will be used for hanging baskets, berm grasses, plants for large pots at NH, annuals for AAGs, and watering of gardens.
- Complete Designs contract for watering hanging baskets and AAGs: with input from SS, SD & HP, MM is continuing to negotiate for lower overall costs using more conservative watering practices.

#### Spring Clean-Up, Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> (Rain date Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>)

- Volunteers (being approached): Post 53, Daisy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Indian Princesses, Friends of Tilley Pond Park, Friends of Gorham's Pond, Taste of Italy. Volunteers (new, confirmed): Hindley school moms to clean up Hindley school grounds and nearby Post Road. One area still needs cleaning, by adults – exit 13. Pending...
- Collection/counting of plastic bags: SS following up with Katie Keith on practice. Last week's clean up of exit 12 – 63 plastic bags were found! Volunteers found, as an adult it's not difficult to count bags while cleaning up; it may however not be easy for children.
- Exit 12 has 2 rock formations covered in vines. SS organizing removal of the vines, asking DPW to help.
- Zotos property across from exit 12 is very well maintained, but there is a lot of trash just outside their property. SS to send a letter to Zotos to request they purchase trees for exit 12, and that they clean up the trash just outside of their property.
- A house is being knocked down off Long Neck Road, several plants will be destroyed. SS to send letter to ask permission to take these plants before they are destroyed in construction.

#### Adopt-A-Gardens (AAGs)

- Clean-up of AAGs. All 7 we maintain will be cleaned by the end of the week. SS to ask DPW to mulch all of these gardens that have space (all but exit 11N and exit 10 overpass). SS will ask DPW if they could repaint the yellow around the islands as well, or if not whether we can do it. Northbound exit 11, curbing damaged – SS to ask DPW about this as well.
- Entrance to I-95N (exit 11, near Darien Animal Hospital & Penny Glassmeyer's new Bridal Store): DPW won't remove shrubs as it's state property. SS to ask if they could cut them back, if state approval would be required. MM to also call state department to see if they'll do something.

#### The Berm Project

- Space for grasses - Weeburn confirmed! They'll hold our grasses while we're growing them on. 2 lots of grasses to be delivered end April (shipment scheduled to leave 4/23, arrival date tbc).
- BC members - stay tuned for dates for potting up (from small pots to bigger pots at Weeburn), and berm planting...
- Eagle Scout Robert Powess will help! DM working with him on specific projects.
- Tests of water pump to stream vs hose to tap didn't go well. DM/JS confirmed Penny Glassmeyer's ok to use the Melting Pot spigot for watering the berm. 250 feet of hose will be required. SS to approach DPW for a shed/container to hold the hoses.
- Tree planting at the berm – Black Tupelo/Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*) & Shadbush (*Amelanchier*) available at Planters Choice, Tree Conservancy of Darien appears to be donating them. BC would need to top up tree gator bags when watering the berm.
- DM would like to put in Bottlebrush Buckeye as well, which would be BC cost (next year's budget).

### Illegal Signs

- Website wording – BB/SS have not received any feedback yet.
- Letter on sign placement from BB published in the Darien Times.
- In the sign proposal, BB will adjust the proposal to now relax the timing on when signs go up and are removed. Hoping that this proposal will be more readily accepted, a meeting may not even be required.

### Other

- Does DPW have spare garbage cans? SS to follow up.
- Status update on BC members/BoS approval: PH was approved, Sig should be approved Monday night.
- T-shirts for BC, so when we're cleaning up it's obvious we're 'Darien Beautification Commission'. SH to look into vests from Ikea; MM to gain quote for printing/monogramming.
- BB mentioned bridge near NH that needs repainting. SS to ask DPW.
- Darien Sport Shop has a beautiful garden. SD suggested all say 'thank you' when we shop there.

Next Meeting May 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am Town Hall Room B-3